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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Genevieve Range Brown, who passed away on February 12, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Genevieve Brown was born to Charles and Estella Evans on December 22, 1938; she committed to her faith and began her Christian ministry as a Sunday school teacher; her love for teaching grew, and she eventually served as a vacation bible school director, a Sunday school superintendent, a SpiritLed Women director, and a Bible study leader; she was ordained into the gospel ministry on May 16, 1993; and

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WHEREAS, Genevieve Brown was the first African American cheerleader at Joliet Township High School and the first African American woman to run for the school board in Joliet; in the 1970s, she became the first African American female wrestling referee in the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Genevieve Brown was an advocate for all; she created the Genevieve Brown Scholarship for high school teen mothers; she volunteered at the Salvation Army, read to children at the local school, and served as the president of the PTA and the band boosters; after her first heart bypass surgery, she founded the support group Mended Hearts; for the

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1 last three years, she was a member of Leap of Faith Ministries  
2 under the leadership of her oldest son; and

3 WHEREAS, Genevieve Brown received many awards for her  
4 community work, including the Joliet NAACP Phenomenal Women  
5 Award, the Woman of Distinction Award from the Midwest  
6 Christian Women's Conference, the Vivian Pennymon Community  
7 Service Award from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and the  
8 Community Service Award from the National Hook-Up of Black  
9 Women; she was also recognized by Mothers Against Gangs; and

10 WHEREAS, Genevieve Brown was preceded in death by her  
11 parents and her siblings, Charles Evans Jr. and Ethel Mae  
12 Bankston; and

13 WHEREAS, Genevieve Brown is survived by her children,  
14 Bishop-Elect Steven (Alicia) Evans, R. Dale (Valerie) Evans,  
15 Dr. Tammy (Willie) Alexander, Rhonda (Neal) Lockhart, and Elder  
16 David (Sidonia) Range; her sister-in-love, Margaret Lively;  
17 her godchildren, DonnaRae Spivey, Troy Cicero Jr., Taylor  
18 Cicero, and Kemyra Genny-Johnay Davis; her cousins, friends,  
19 and the next generation of trailblazers, servant leaders, and  
20 community advocates; her 16 grandchildren; her 20  
21 great-grandchildren; and her two great-great-grandchildren;  
22 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 Genevieve Range Brown and extend our sincere condolences to her  
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Genevieve Brown as an expression of  
8 our deepest sympathy.